

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in Response to the Office Action dated January 29, 2003. A Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith. A Petition for a Two-Month Extension to Respond to the Office Action is submitted herewith. Claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 17 and 21 have been amended. New Claims 26 to 62 have been added. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments made herein. A check in the amount of \$2,192.00 is submitted herein to cover the cost of the RCE, two-month extension and new Claims. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any insufficiency of payment. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. (0112300-994) on the account statement.

Claims 1 to 14, 17, 18, 21 and 22 were under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,775,692 to Watts et al. ("*Watts*"). Claims 15, 16, 19, 20, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Watts*.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a gaming device having a display device and a primary game adapted to be displayed by the display device. The primary game includes a set of reels having a plurality of primary symbols. A plurality of primary awards are associated with the primary symbols. The gaming device also includes a first secondary game adapted to be displayed by the display device which includes a set of reels having a plurality of secondary symbols where the secondary symbols include at least one different symbol than the primary symbols. The gaming device further includes a second secondary game adapted to be displayed by the display device. A plurality of secondary awards are associated with the secondary symbols in each of the secondary games. The secondary awards are different from the primary awards. A processor of the gaming device causes the display device to display the set of reels in the primary game and randomly determines the primary symbols indicated by the set of reels in the primary game. The processor provides any primary awards associated with the primary symbols indicated on the reels of the primary game. The processor causes the display device to replace the set of reels in the primary with the set of reels in the first secondary game when a first triggering event occurs in the primary game. The processor randomly determines the secondary symbols indicated

by the set of reels in the first secondary game and provides any secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols indicated on the reels. The processor causes the display device to replace the set of reels with the second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs in the first secondary game. The primary game does not include a triggering event which causes the processor to cause the display device to display the second secondary game. *Watts* does not disclose, teach or suggest such a combination of elements.

Watts discloses various embodiments. Each embodiment involves a gaming machine including simultaneously and separately displayed first and second sets of reels 10 and 11, respectively. The gaming device may initially spin either of the first or the second set of reels in the game. In one example, the gaming machine spins one of the sets of reels such as the second set of reels 11, and the combination of symbols is indicated on line 13 on those reels (See Col. 2, lines 39-44). The gaming device then provides an award to the player associated with symbol combination indicated on the second set of reels 11 or spins the other set of reels (i.e., the first set of reels 10), when a specific designated symbol combination is indicated on line 13. Alternatively, the gaming device spins one of the sets of reels such as the second set of reels 10 a specific number of times based on designated symbol combinations indicated on line 12 associated with the first set of reels where the designated symbol combinations are associated with different numbers of spins of the second set of reels (See Col. 1, lines 48-51 and Col. 3, lines 1-7).

Watts does not disclose, teach or suggest replacing either set of reels with the other set of reels. The reels 10 and 11 in *Watts* are fixed reels and cannot be replaced. There is no suggestion in *Watts* that either of these reels can be replaced. (See Fig. 1 of *Watts*). *Watts* also does not disclose, teach or suggest replacing the set of reels in the first secondary game with a second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs in the first secondary game. *Watts* also does not disclose, teach or suggest a gaming device the replacement in combination with primary awards associated with the primary symbols in the primary game and secondary awards associated with secondary symbols in one or more secondary games where the secondary awards are different from the primary awards. *Watts* rather suggests that a

similar prize such as a jackpot prize may be indicated on either set of reels 10 or 11 (See, Col. 1, lines 37-47 and Col. 2, lines 39-58). Moreover, *Watts* does not disclose, teach or suggest those elements in combination with the triggering of a second secondary game through a first secondary game and not through the base game. For these reasons, amended Claim 1 and Claims 2 to 5, which depend from amended Claim 1, are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and in condition for allowance.

Amended Claim 6 is directed to a gaming device including a base game, a first bonus game and a second bonus game. The base game includes a set of reels having a plurality of base game symbols. A plurality of base game awards are associated with those base game symbols. Additionally, the gaming device includes a first bonus game including a set of reels having a plurality of first bonus game symbols where the first bonus game symbols are different then the base game symbols and where there are less first bonus game symbols than base game symbols in the base game. This increases the likelihood that a player will obtain an award in the first bonus game. The gaming device also includes a plurality of bonus game awards associated with the bonus game symbols in each of the bonus games wherein the bonus game awards are different then the base game awards. The gaming device further includes a display device and a processor in communication with the display device. The processor causes the display device to display the set of reels associated with the base game and randomly determines the displayed base game symbols on those reels. The processor provides any base game awards associated with the base game symbols indicated on the reels in the base game. The processor then causes the display device to replace those reels with the set of reels associated with the first bonus game when a first triggering event occurs in the base game. The processor randomly determines the displayed first bonus game symbols in the first bonus game and provides any bonus game awards associated with the first bonus game symbols indicated on the reels in the first bonus game. The processor causes the display device to replace the reels in the first bonus game with the second bonus game when a second triggering event occurs in the first bonus game. The base game does not include a triggering event which causes the processor to provide the second bonus game.

As described above, *Watts* does not disclose, teach or suggest replacing the set of reels with another set of reels associated with the same game or a different game such as a bonus game. *Watts* also does not disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of base game awards associated with the base game symbols and a plurality of bonus game awards associated with the bonus game symbols wherein the bonus game awards are different then the base game awards. Also, *Watts* does not disclose, teach or suggest a base game, a first bonus game and a second bonus game where the base game does not include a triggering event for the second bonus game. For these reasons, amended Claim 6 and Claims 7 and 8, which depend from amended Claim 6, are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and are in condition for allowance.

Amended Claim 9 is directed to a gaming device including similar elements to amended Claim 1. For at least the reasons described above, amended Claim 9 and Claims 10 and 11, which depend from amended Claim 9 are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and are in condition for allowance.

Amended Claim 12 is directed to a method of operating a gaming device including the steps of displaying a primary game on the display device where the primary game includes a set of primary reels having a plurality of primary symbols. The method enables a player to play the primary game and provides any primary awards associated with the primary symbols indicated on the primary reels in the primary game to the player. The method includes removing the primary reels from the display device and replacing the primary reels on the display device with a set of secondary reels of a secondary game when a first triggering event occurs in the primary game. The secondary reels in the first secondary game include a plurality of secondary symbols which are different from the primary symbols. The method enables a player to play the first secondary game on the display device that provides any secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols indicated on the secondary reels in the first secondary game wherein the secondary awards are different then the primary awards. The method includes removing the secondary reels from the display device and replacing the secondary reels on the display device in the first secondary game with a second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs in the first secondary

game. The primary game does not include a triggering event which causes the activation of the second secondary game.

In addition to the above discussion regarding *Watts*, *Watts* does not disclose, teach or suggest this combination of elements additionally including removing the primary reels on the display device and replacing the primary reels with secondary reels in a first secondary game upon a first triggering event in the primary game. Nor does *Watts* disclose, teach or suggest this combination of elements additionally including removing the secondary reels on the display device in a first secondary game and replacing the secondary reels with a second secondary game upon a second triggering event in the first secondary game. For at least these reasons, Claim 12 and Claims 13 to 16, which depend from Claim 12 are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and are in condition for allowance.

Regarding amended Claim 17, for at least the reasons provided above, *Watts* does not disclose, teach or suggest the combination of all the elements of amended Claim 17. Therefore, amended Claim 17 and Claims 18 to 20, which depend from amended Claim 17, are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and are in condition for allowance.

Regarding amended Claim 21, for at least the reasons provided above, *Watts* does not disclose, teach or suggest the combination of all the elements of amended Claim 21. Therefore, amended Claim 21 and Claims 22 to 24, which depend from amended Claim 21 are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 25 to 29 depend from amended Claim 1.

New Claim 26 further includes the element that the secondary awards in the second secondary game are different from the secondary awards in the first secondary game.

New Claim 27 further includes the element that at least one of the secondary awards in the second secondary game is greater than all of the secondary awards in the first secondary game. *Watts* does not disclose, teach or suggest games such as a primary game and a secondary game including different awards. Therefore, *Watts*

does not disclose, teach or suggest a second secondary game that has different awards from a first secondary game.

New Claim 28 further includes the element that a probability of obtaining a winning combination of symbols associated with each winning combination of the primary symbols of the primary game and each winning combination of the secondary symbols of the first secondary game. The probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols are different then the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of primary symbols.

New Claim 29 includes the element that at least one of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols in the first secondary game is greater than all the probabilities associated with the winning combination of primary symbols in the primary game. *Watts* does not disclose, teach or suggest including probabilities associated with the winning combination of symbols of the reels 10 or 11 where the probabilities associated with winning combinations of symbols on one set of reels are different then the probabilities associated winning combination symbols on the other set of reels.

Therefore, for at least the reasons provided above and because of the additional elements in such claims as described in part below, new Claims 25 to 29 are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 30 to 34 depend from amended Claim 6 and include similar elements to new Claims 25 to 29. Therefore, for at least the reasons provided above, new Claims 30 to 34 are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 35 to 39 depend from amended Claim 9 and include similar elements to new Claims 25 to 29. Therefore, for at least the reasons provided above, new Claims 35 to 39 are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 40 to 44 depend from amended Claim 12 and include similar elements to new Claims 25 to 29. Therefore, for at least the reasons provided above, new Claims 40 to 44 are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 45 to 49 depend from amended Claim 17 and include similar elements to new Claims 25 to 29. Therefore, for at least the reasons provided above, new Claims 45 to 49 are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 50 to 54 depend from amended Claim 21 and include similar elements to new Claims 25 to 29. Therefore, for at least the reasons provided above, new Claims 50 to 54 are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and are in condition for allowance.

New Claim 55 is directed to a gaming device that includes a display device in a primary game adapted to be displayed by the display device. The primary game includes a set of reels having a plurality of primary symbols. A probability of obtaining a winning combination of the primary symbols is associated with each of the winning combinations of the primary symbols. The gaming device also includes a first secondary game adapted to be displayed by the display device where the first secondary game includes a set of reels having a plurality of secondary symbols where the secondary symbols include at least one different symbol than the primary symbols. The gaming device further includes a second secondary game adapted to be displayed by the display device. A probability of obtaining a winning combination of secondary symbols is associated with each of the winning combinations of the secondary symbols where the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of the secondary symbols are different than the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of the primary symbols. The processor causes the display device to display the set of reels in the primary game and randomly determines a winning combination of the primary symbols of the reels in the primary game based on the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of the primary symbols. The processor causes the display device to remove the set of reels in the primary game from the display device and replace the set of reels with the set of reels in the first secondary game when a first triggering event occurs in the primary game. The processor randomly determines a winning combination of the secondary symbols of the reels in the first secondary game based on the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of the secondary symbols. The processor causes the display device to remove the set of reels in the first

secondary game on the display device and replace the set of reels in the first secondary game with the second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs in the first secondary game. The primary game does not include a triggering event which causes the processor to cause the display device to display the second secondary game. For at least the above reasons, new Claim 55 and new Claims 56 to 58, which depend from new Claim 55 are each patentably distinguished over *Watts* and are in condition for allowance.

New Claim 59 is directed to a gaming device having similar elements to new Claim 55. New claim 59 also includes a plurality of bonus game symbols in a first bonus game that are different then the base game symbols in the base game. New Claim 59 also includes the plurality of bonus game symbols in the first bonus game being less than the plurality of base game symbols in the base game. For at least the above reasons, new Claim 59 and new Claims 60 to 62, which depend from new Claim 59, are each patentably distinguished over *Watts*.

Additionally in the Office Action, Claims 15, 16, 19, 20, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Specifically, the Patent Office noted that *Watts* “seems to lack explicitly disclosing that a gaming device is operated through a data network and/or wherein the data network is the Internet.” (see page 4 of the Office Action). However, the Patent Office stated that such data networks were well known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention. As described above, *Watts* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements in each of the amended independent Claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 17 and 21, from which Claims 15, 16, 19, 20, 23 and 24 depend, and therefore does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of these claims. For these reasons, Claims 15, 16, 19, 20, 23 and 24 are each patentably distinguished over *Watts*.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the present response. The attached page is captioned **“Version with markings to show changes made”**.

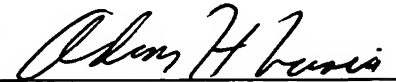
An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicants

respectfully request that the Patent Office contact the Applicants' attorney, Adam Masia, at (312) 807-4284 to discuss this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adam H. Masia", is written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A gaming device comprising:
 - ✓ a display device;
 - a primary game adapted to be displayed by the display device;
 - ✓ a set of reels in the primary game including a plurality of primary symbols;
 - ✓ a plurality of primary awards associated with the primary symbols;
 - ✓ a first secondary game adapted to be displayed by said display device;
 - ✓ a set of reels in the first secondary game including a plurality of secondary symbols, wherein said secondary symbols include at least one different symbol than the primary symbols;
 - a second secondary game adapted to be displayed by the display device; ~~and~~
 - ✓ a plurality of secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols in each of the secondary games, wherein the secondary awards are different than the primary awards; and
 - a processor which causes the display device to display the set of reels in the primary game, randomly determines the primary symbols indicated by the set of reels in the primary game, provides any primary awards associated with the primary symbols indicated on the reels in the primary game, causes the display device to replace the set of reels in the primary game with the set of reels in the first secondary game when a first triggering event occurs in the primary game, randomly determines the secondary symbols indicated by the set of reels of the first secondary game, provides any secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols indicated on the reels in the first secondary game, and causes the display device to replace the set of reels in the first secondary game with the second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs in the first secondary game, wherein the primary game does not include a triggering event which causes the processor to cause the display device to display the second secondary game.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) A gaming device comprising:

a base game including a set of reels having a plurality of base game symbols;

a plurality of base game awards associated with the base game symbols;

a first bonus game including a set of reels having a plurality of first bonus game symbols, wherein the first bonus game symbols of said first bonus game are different than the base game symbols of the base game and wherein the plurality of first bonus game symbols in the first bonus game is less than the plurality of base game symbols in the base game;

a second bonus game;

a plurality of bonus game awards associated with the bonus game symbols in each of the bonus games, wherein the bonus game awards are different than the base game awards;

a display device; and

a processor in communication with the display device, which causes the display device to display the set of reels associated with the base game, randomly determines the displayed base game symbols, provides any base game awards associated with the base game symbols indicated on the reels in the base game, causes the display device to replace the set of reels associated with the base game with the set of the reels associated with the first bonus game when a first triggering event occurs in the base game, randomly determines the displayed first bonus game symbols, provides any bonus game awards associated with the first bonus game symbols indicated on the reels in the first bonus game, causes the display device to replace the set of reels in the first bonus game with ~~and provides~~ the second bonus game ~~to the player~~ when a second triggering event occurs in the first bonus game, wherein the base game does not include a triggering event which causes the processor to provide the second bonus game.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (Amended) A gaming device comprising:

a primary game;

a set of primary reels in the primary game including a plurality of primary symbols;

a plurality of primary awards associated with the primary symbols;

a first secondary game;

a set of secondary reels in the first secondary game including a plurality of secondary symbols, wherein said secondary symbols of the first secondary game are different than the primary symbols and wherein the plurality of secondary game symbols of the first secondary game is less than the plurality of primary game symbols of the primary game;

a second secondary game;

a plurality of secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols in each of the secondary games, wherein the secondary awards are different than the primary awards;

a display device; and

a processor in communication with the display device which randomly determines the primary symbols indicated by the primary reels, provides any primary awards associated with the primary symbols indicated on the reels in the primary game, ~~and~~ causes the display device to replace the primary reels with the secondary reels when a first triggering event occurs on the primary reels, randomly determines the secondary symbols indicated by the secondary reels, provides any secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols indicated on the reels in the first secondary game, replaces the secondary reels in the first secondary game with ~~provides the~~ second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs on the secondary reels in the first secondary game, wherein the primary game does not include a first triggering event which causes the processor to provide the second secondary game.

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (Amended) A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying on a display device a primary game including a set of primary reels having a plurality of primary symbols;

(b) enabling a player to play the primary game;

(c) providing any primary awards associated with the primary symbols indicated on the primary reels in the primary game to a player;

(d) removing the primary reels from said display device;

~~(e)~~ (e) replacing on said display device the primary reels with a set of secondary reels of a first secondary game when a first triggering event occurs in the primary game, said secondary reels of the first secondary game including a plurality of secondary symbols which are different than the primary symbols;

~~(f)~~ (f) enabling the player to play the first secondary game on the display device;
and

(g) providing any secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols indicated on the secondary reels in the first secondary game, wherein the secondary awards are different than the primary awards;

(h) removing the secondary reels from said display device; and

(i) ~~(e)~~ replacing on said display device the secondary reels of the first secondary game with a second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs in the first secondary game, wherein the primary game does not include a triggering event which causes the activation of the second secondary game.

Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

17. (Amended) A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying on a display device a base game including a set of reels having a plurality of base game symbols;

(b) enabling a player to play the base game;

(c) providing any base game awards associated with the base game symbols indicated on the reels in the base game;

(d) removing the base game from said display device;

(e) ~~(e)~~ replacing on said display device the base game with a first bonus game when a first triggering event occurs in the base game, said first bonus game including a set of reels having a plurality of first bonus game symbols, wherein the first bonus game symbols of said first bonus game are different than the base game symbols of the base game and wherein the plurality of first bonus game symbols in the first bonus game is less than the plurality of base game symbols in the base game;

(f) ~~(d)~~ enabling a player to play the first bonus game; and

(g) providing any bonus game awards associated with the first bonus game symbols indicated on the reels in the first bonus game, wherein the bonus game awards are different than the base game awards;

(h) removing said first bonus game from said display device; and

(i) ~~(e)~~ replacing said first bonus game with providing a second bonus game to the player when a second triggering event occurs in the first bonus game, wherein the base game does not include a triggering event which causes activation of the second bonus game.

Claim 21 has been amended as follows:

21. (Amended) A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying on a display device a primary game including a set of primary reels having a plurality of primary symbols;

(b) enabling a player to play the primary game;

(c) providing any primary awards associated with the primary symbols indicated on the primary reels in the primary game to a player;

(d) removing the primary game from said display device;

(e) ~~(e)~~ replacing on said display device the primary game with a first secondary game when a first triggering event occurs on the primary reels, said secondary game including a set of secondary reels having a plurality of secondary symbols, wherein said secondary symbols of the first secondary game are different than the primary symbols and wherein the plurality of secondary game symbols of the first secondary game is less than the plurality of primary game symbols of the primary game;

(f) ~~(d)~~ enabling a player to play the first secondary game; and

(g) providing any secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols indicated on the secondary reels in the first secondary game, wherein the secondary awards are different than the primary awards;

(h) removing said first secondary game from said display device; and

(i) ~~(e)~~ replacing said first secondary game with providing a second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs on the secondary reels in the first secondary game, wherein the primary game does not include a triggering event which causes activation of the second secondary game.

New Claims 25 to 62 have been added.